

Amendments to the Claims

Please CANCEL claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 4, 15, and 18 as follows. All of the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, are reproduced below in accordance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice.

1. (Currently Amended) An evaporator comprising:

a bottle containing a substance to be evaporated, and a wick having a lower portion disposed in the substance in said bottle and an upper portion protruding from said bottle;

a housing adapted to receive said a bottle ~~with a~~ and wick ~~protruding therefrom~~;

an electrical plug assembly coupled to said housing for supporting the evaporator in a wall outlet;

a heating device disposed within said housing in electrical communication with said electrical plug assembly; and

an adjuster disposed in said housing and adapted to adjust a spacing of the wick relative to said heating device, said adjuster including a ratcheting mechanism that retains said adjuster in any one of a plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An evaporator according to claim 1 2, wherein said bottle and said wick are detachably received by said housing.

4. (Currently Amended) An evaporator according to claim 1 2, wherein said ratcheting mechanism comprises a retaining dog that is biased against said housing to retain said adjuster in a desired one of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

5. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 4, wherein said ratcheting mechanism further comprises a cantilever arm that biases said retaining dog against said housing.

6. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 5, wherein said housing includes a serrated adjustment surface against which said retaining dog is biased, the serrated adjustment surface having a plurality of peaks and valleys, each valley corresponding to one of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

7. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 6, wherein said retaining dog is rigid and said cantilever arm is flexible so as to allow said retaining dog to move up over each of the plurality of peaks and down into each of the plurality of valleys while riding along the serrated adjustment surface of said housing.

8. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 6, wherein rotation of said adjuster causes a ratcheting sound and feel as said retaining dog rides along the serrated surface of said housing, whereby the user can sense movement of the adjuster between each of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings by both auditory and tactile perception.

9. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 4, wherein said adjuster further comprises a hollow cylindrical portion adapted to receive the upper portion of the wick.

10. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 9, wherein said adjuster further comprises a dial portion for rotating said hollow cylindrical portion about an axis of rotation.

11. (Original) An evaporator according to claim 10, wherein said dial portion is formed integrally with said hollow cylindrical portion.

12. (Original) An evaporator according to claim 9, wherein said hollow cylindrical portion is rotatable through a range of rotation of about 180 degrees.

13. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 9, wherein said hollow cylindrical portion defines an opening through which the wick extends, and the center of the opening is offset relative to the axis of rotation of said hollow cylindrical portion.

14. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 1, wherein said adjuster further comprises a hollow cylindrical portion adapted to receive the upper portion of the wick, and a dial portion formed integrally with said hollow cylindrical portion for rotating said hollow cylindrical portion about an axis of rotation, and

wherein said ratcheting mechanism comprises a retaining dog that is biased into contact with a serrated adjustment surface of said housing to retain said adjuster in a desired one of said plurality of adjustment settings, the serrated adjustment surface having a plurality of peaks and valleys, each valley corresponding to one of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

15. (Currently Amended) An evaporator comprising:

a bottle containing a substance to be evaporated, and a wick having a lower portion disposed in the substance in said bottle and an upper portion protruding from said bottle;

a housing adapted to receive said a bottle ~~with a~~ and wick ~~protruding therefrom~~;

a heating device disposed within said housing and adapted to apply heat to the wick; and

an electrical plug assembly, including a plug deck, coupled to said housing for supporting the evaporator in a wall outlet and supplying power to said heating device, said plug deck being rotatable in order to support the evaporator in an upright position in both horizontal and vertical wall outlets, and said plug deck including a locking mechanism which retains said plug deck in one of a plurality of discrete positions relative to said housing; and

an adjuster disposed within said housing and adapted to adjust a spacing of the wick relative to said heating device, said adjuster including a ratcheting mechanism that retains said adjuster in any one of a plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

16. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 15, wherein said adjuster further comprises a hollow cylindrical portion adapted to receive an upper portion of the wick, and a dial portion formed integrally with said hollow cylindrical portion for rotating said hollow cylindrical portion about an axis of rotation, and

wherein said ratcheting mechanism comprises a retaining dog that is biased into contact with a serrated adjustment surface of said housing to retain said adjuster in a desired one of said plurality of adjustment settings, the serrated adjustment surface having a plurality of peaks and valleys, each valley corresponding to one of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

17. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 16, wherein said locking mechanism comprises at least one protrusion formed on said housing that engages at least one protrusion formed on said plug deck to lock said plug deck in one of the plurality of discrete positions, and

wherein said plug deck further comprises a left stop face for limiting rotation of said plug deck in the counter-clockwise direction and a right stop face for limiting rotation of said plug deck in the clockwise direction.

18. (Currently Amended) An electrical evaporator comprising:
a bottle containing a substance to be evaporated, and a wick having a lower portion disposed in the substance in said bottle and an upper portion protruding from said bottle;
a housing adapted to receive said a bottle ~~with a~~ and wick ~~protruding therefrom;~~
an electrical plug assembly coupled to said housing for supporting the evaporator in a wall outlet;
a heating device disposed within said housing in electrical communication with said electrical plug assembly; and
an adjuster disposed in said housing for adjusting a spacing of the wick relative to said heating device, said adjuster including a retaining dog that is biased into contact with said housing to retain said adjuster in any one of a plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

19. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 18, wherein said retaining dog is biased into contact with a serrated adjustment surface of said housing to retain said adjuster in a desired one of said plurality of adjustment settings, the serrated adjustment surface having a plurality of peaks and valleys, each valley corresponding to one of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings.

20. (Previously Presented) An evaporator according to claim 19, wherein rotation of said adjuster causes a ratcheting sound and feel as said retaining dog rides along the serrated adjustment surface of said housing, whereby the user can sense movement of the adjuster

between each of the plurality of discrete adjustment settings by both auditory and tactile perception.